

# **Envision Carlsbad Citizens Committee**

## **Minutes**

**January 26, 2011**

**1635 Faraday Avenue, Carlsbad  
Room 173A/B**

### **Committee Present**

#### **Primary Members**

Allen Sweet	Barbara Hamilton	Eric Larson (Chair)
Fred Sandquist	Jeannie Sprague-Bentley	Jeff Segall
Jim Farley (Vice-Chair)	John O'Reilly	Julie Baker
Kirk Cowles	Mike Howes	Sean Bentley

#### **Alternate Members**

Guy Roney	Jack Cumming	Jim Bradley
Robert Nielsen	Tina Schmidt	

Absent: Diane Proulx (Primary), Gina McBride (Primary), Greg Nelson (Primary), Hap L'Heureux (Primary), Jim Comstock (Primary), Robert Gates (Primary), Dr. Anne Spacie (Alternate), Chris Korogi (Alternate), Glen Etherington (Alternate), Sean Sexton (Alternate)

### **City of Carlsbad Staff**

*David de Cordova – Principal Planner*  
*Don Neu – City Planner*  
*Gary Barberio – Community & Economic Development Director*  
*Gary Morrison – Chief of Police*  
*Heather Pizzuto – Library Director*  
*Jennifer Jesser – Senior Planner*  
*John Coates – Assistant City Manager*  
*Leticia Treviño Reyes – Senior Office Specialist*  
*Lisa Hildabrand – City Manager*  
*Peter Gordon – Cultural Arts Manager*  
*William Anderson – Fire Battalion Chief*

### **Consultants**

*Carey Fernandez – Dudek*  
*Melissa McMahon – Dyett & Bhattia*  
*Rajeev Bhatia – Dyett & Bhatia*

Public/other attendees – There were members of the public present.

Chair Eric Larson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**1. Minutes from December 8, 2010 EC3 Meeting**

The minutes from the December 8, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented by a unanimous vote of the Committee.

**2. Overview of Working Paper 4: History, the Arts and Cultural Resources; High Quality Education and Community Services**

Presentation of Working Paper 4 background materials was given.

**3. Group Conversation**

**Conversation One:** How to better protect, enhance and improve access to Carlsbad's cultural and historic resources? Should culture and history be integrated into city's arts programs/events?

**Committee Discussion**

It would be nice to recognize the educational programs regarding the Native American culture that Agua Hedionda, Discovery Center, and Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation have.

The Barrio Museum should have been mentioned in working paper.

How are we currently handling these issues? Who is administering it? Are we taking reports and archiving them?

[Staff response] Archeological records that identify archaeological resource locations are kept confidential. The archaeological community is concerned that people will disturb the sites and remove important artifacts. There are some sites throughout the city that have plaques placed on them to indicate the importance of the site and the history that occurred. In the past the city had maintained an inventory of historic resources. There is a historic preservation commission that deals with the list of important places on the inventory and they acknowledge various resources through such activities as a walking tour.

The preservation commission has not been as active as it used to be. Concept of historic district may exist in California law. Should the Village really be a historic district and should we think of it as a unique resource?

[Staff response] The level of activity is different because of direction from the Council about how to handle the inventory and how they saw the City moving forward with its protection of resources.

Having a historic district does create restrictions on what you can do with your property but it can raise the property value substantially.

Fifty years is the trigger for assessing whether a resource may be historic or not, but that does not automatically make it significant.

The inventory is kept at the San Diego State University in individual records. Occasionally there may be a new survey to make sure they are in the right place but with GPS today it is easy to see its location.

Nobody knows where they are but people can stumble on this. If someone is digging, police will not know if the area is significant because it is confidential.

That leads to a more interpretive signage that educates how the area is significant.

There may be some superficial damage by people walking and picking up things off the surface, but the really valuable remains are a couple feet underground. The value of preserving them now is because archeologists are going to have advanced technology.

We need to look at the stewardships.

The cultural resources that are in the Village should be preserved since it was sort of the founding area of Carlsbad. Carlsbad Village Association is having talks about getting a mainstreet association to hook up with the state of California and the U.S. Mainstreet Association. They could benefit from the expertise and resources that the city of Carlsbad has.

The Grand Promenade proposal recently presented to the City Council by a citizen includes doing some street work and street finishing on Grand with the idea to eventually put a tunnel under I-5 and redo the City Hall complex, Cole Library, and the amphitheater. It gives various ideas on new ways to use property that the city already owns.

**Conversation Two: How to ensure adequate supply of child care, and improve services for children with special needs? How can schools be better integrated with the community? Improve community-district relationships?**

#### Committee Discussion

State has gone to great lengths to take that ability away from cities and municipalities and hand it directly to school districts and the state. The city becomes a spectator.

[Staff response] School districts are government entities separate from the City and they govern themselves. The geographic boundary of Carlsbad is different than the district's boundary. The City has little control over location and physical development of schools except for public improvement and things they do in the right-of-way or where their operations affect things off-site. Schools are important to the community, both positive, and sometimes negative, like traffic circulation. It is imperative that the city maintain good relationships with the school districts in order to work together to try and solve problems.

There is no bussing so the streets are packed and cars are parked on both sides of the street. That area is avoided for up to 2 hours.

Is the fact that there are multiple school districts the real issue or is it the general circulation around the school?

[Staff response] It makes coordination between the city and the school districts a bigger issue because it is multiplied by four. The city provides all the public facilities, the streets, the sewer, storm drain, police, fire, for emergency response.

The Traffic Engineering Department gives a lot of attention to the circulation around schools. There are a lot of visits made to the school areas and there are unexpected drop off points that seem to evolve and the Traffic Engineering Department is good at trying to identify them and get ahead of that. There seems to be a very cooperative attitude from the school districts and the city.

Who is our education specialist in this process? The Secretary of Education's vision is schools become community centers that are open 14-15 hours a day and serve a broad cross section of our community in a multitude of ways.

[Consultant remark] We did speak to schools to get data to help compile this report. The General Plan process is a great place to push those ideas farther.

It is our responsibility in this committee to reach out to that group to ask what they have to say and how do we articulate that through a document that is going to be meaningful to this community for the next 20 years?

[Staff response] There are federal and state mandates. There is so much coming down to the local districts that they do not have that much power themselves.

We are in the process of growing a community and part of that means that we have a robust education system, we have facilities that take care of kids, that we are growing multigenerational families, that we are giving opportunities for older adults to learn and also to volunteer.

There is child care with Carlsbad Unified before and after school hours which is being run by the Carlsbad Educational Foundation. We need to do a better job about joint-use agreements between the city and school districts.

On weekends elementary schools are locked up, even though they have fields and facilities the citizens can be using. We can have better patrols and a bigger police presence or neighborhood watch to prevent vandalism.

Maybe it is making sure that we have adults and volunteer police so people feel safe enough to let their kids walk to school.

Schools study the arts and the culture of Carlsbad. Working Paper #4 would be a good paper to hand over to the school districts.

Schools will have to address liabilities and sharing of risk with the City so school districts would feel more comfortable to open up their facilities.

Vision of 2030/2050 is to have areas of mixed use where people can live/walk/do everything in their area. It makes sense to have childcare close to houses, not just by work.

Elementary schools are embedded into our community but the childcare facilities all seem to be in strip malls.

We should be looking for pocket spaces in our neighborhood to plug in play spaces for our kids.

Childcare/preschools meet resistance when going into a community. We need to educate the community about the value of having those in the community.

[Staff response] There is a numerical calculation that leads to a requirement for community facilities within every master plan and one of the primary community facility uses is daycare. It is a concept of trying to incorporate daycare within the community where the homes are in close proximity.

The main objection that neighbors have is the traffic congestion at drop off times.

These areas are designated for community facilities, but the City cannot force these things to happen. For economic reasons beyond the City's control, these areas are not always being developed with childcare facilities.

[Staff response] The childcare facilities that are the more successful have more visibility like a commercial property so the provider is not counting on only the people living in the immediate neighborhood. Smaller ones are provided in the neighborhoods so that

the kids who live in the area can use the parks and stay at home and the parents are close to home when picking them up toward the end of the day.

Private schools are a big asset to community, but are not that prevalent in Carlsbad. They are also an education amenity as well as a community asset for a lot of different reasons.

Do private schools have the same airport problem that public schools have, where they cannot be located within a flight path?

[Staff response] The airport does have some land use restrictions for public and private schools as well as places for assembly of 100 or more people.

If you have an affluent school district like Carlsbad, they do not want to sponsor a charter school because that draws revenue away from the regular schools.

Many of the trustees that go to the North County Hispanic Round Table every month go so they can listen to the problems that schools are having in the city.

[Staff response regarding the relationship between city library services and school programs] The Learning Center incorporated both Centro de Informacion and Adult Literacy Program into one facility and it has leased space to Head Start, which is a preschool program. The library has a history of partnering with local school districts to achieve what they can, given the fact that their charges are very distinct because of the education code. There is other governing legislation that determines what schools and other educational entities are responsible for, including library services. The Learning Center already partners with many agencies and all the school districts on understanding the needs and where they come together. The Learning Center has a lifelong literacy program that specifically addresses the question, "Where does the school start and stop and where can the library pick up?" The Adult Learning Program also has a component that brings high school students from Carlsbad High School over for additional literacy support. Grades K-12 are funded at the state level and the library is funded at the local level.

**Conversation Three: Should the city develop partnerships to promote an institute for higher learning or other resource for lifelong learning? General Plan role in ensuring resources for education, lifelong learning, literacy, cultural enrichment?**

Committee Discussion

It would be nice but there is not space for a campus.

We should talk to universities and colleges to see if there is a need and then figure it out.

Can Carlsbad be a cluster for private educational facilities?

We have a tremendous number of rooms available for symposiums, just to explore ideas and to move knowledge forward.

Over the years there has been a demand for a field station. We can bring in qualified PhD's to work on important issues.

The city can partner with the universities and offer space.

We are lucky because we are surrounded by 2 community colleges, a Cal State, and UC campus. They are very community minded, not just with the communities that they function in, but they also try to outreach in nearby communities.

Different groups are looking for a place to have a facility to bring a variety of thinkers together.

What is the actual need? We should track business in North County and Carlsbad and that can tie in to this as well. The City should be more proactive and aggressively attract businesses and higher learning to the area.

We should combine a space that can serve as an incubator where local businesses can participate in helping to raise up entrepreneurs. The University of San Diego has already indicated that they are willing to come and provide courses.

We should get serious about the Farmers Insurance Building. We ought to create a theater and an auditorium in that building for lectures. We should turn it into a hub for education and information going both in and out of Carlsbad.

**Conversation Four: Ways to improve police and fire protection? How will safety services need to adjust as a result of changing demographics and future buildout conditions?**

Committee Discussion

What is the adequacy of First Responders Facility?

[Staff response] Police and Fire respond to instances together as a team. The facility can be used by the police department to do tactical operations, and fire and their tactical medic team can do a light burn and operate in an environment that is not hurting the environment. We dropped boundaries with all of our local agencies and operate by where the vehicle is.

With build-out and an aging population, has the Fire Department done a projection on resources to maintain high level of professionalism that we have now?

[Staff response] County and EMS protocols come out of the county. Almost all fire fighters, engineers, captains carry paramedic certification. The Fire Chief has an open door policy. The best ideas come from people that need the service.

Do we need more buildings with portable defibrillators?

[Staff response] More buildings have been sponsored. There is a program called Project Heartbeat and they find buildings that will purchase the defibrillator and support it.

Should buildings of certain populations be required to have one?

[Staff response] Building population would be a strong consideration. If you have an area where seniors gather, that would be an area of interest.

Are you comfortable with the way the City is looking at growth and making the decisions for providing sufficient facilities?

[Staff response] There was a study by City Gate that gives a comprehensive look at our station locations and that took in the boundary drop that we put in. Prior to the boundary drop it was not nearly as fluid as it is right now. That will cause us to think about relocating fire stations later, but for now we are well covered.

Police response is fewer than 5 ½ minutes which is below the state average.

Is there any advantage to having a presence at store fronts?

[Staff response] There is an office in the mall and by the Senior Center so that gets the police where they need to get quickly.

[Question from public for Fire department] When paramedics are called, why is there a ladder truck?

[Staff response] The Fire Department can respond in an ambulance, fire engine, or a ladder truck. There are three people that can ride in a ladder truck and two people in an ambulance. It can take a lot of hands when there is an emergency.

#### **4. EC3 Feedback**

Is the working paper going to be re-worked?

[Consultant response] The papers were created to generate conversations. It will not be reworked but comments, emails, and corrections will be taken into account when writing the EIR and draft documents.

The working papers are a valuable resource. It is a great introduction to the city of Carlsbad.

The questions do not stimulate discussions; they were answered in dialogue in papers.

[Staff response] Do not let questions inhibit you. They are intended to start conversations.

This is the one area where we can think more outside the box. Is there something we can do that injects input from community?

We are also least bound by the General Plan in this paper.

All issues that were discussed today are what we have pushed to get into the Vision. Everything in this paper is what we value and what we do well in.

## **5. Announcements**

Staff announced that the next EC3 meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup> on Working Paper 5. March 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a public workshop on the Barrio - 6:00 p.m. at Senior Center. Tomorrow is EIR scoping meeting (not a workshop) at 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. for outside agencies and interested parties.

## **6. Public Comment**

One member of the audience addressed the committee about the city's rich agricultural resources and beginnings of our community. Community gardens can grow the food. Farmers' Markets are running. Attendance should be encouraged. Local restaurants serve local food. It is good for economy and business.

## **7. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.